

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

McCRERY, Jim (Republican)
Representative, 4th District, Louisiana
Elected 16Apr88 to the 100th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Shreveport, Louisiana - September 18, 1949

Home: Shreveport, Louisiana

Marital Status: Married (Johnette) - 2 children

Religion: Methodist

Education: Louisiana Tech Univ, BA, 1971; Louisiana State Univ, JD, 1975

Military: None

Profession: Lawyer; lobbyist

Political: Asst City Atty, Shreveport, 1979-80; Legis Dir for Rep Buddy Roemer (D), 1981-4.

Switched from Democrat to Republican in 1987 before running for Roemer's seat. Won 50.6% of the vote in a special 16Apr88 election to succeed Rep Roemer for the 5th District (now represents the 4th due to redistricting), who resigned to become Governor. Sworn-in 26Apr88. Reelected in 2000 with 71% of the vote and in 2002 with 72%.

Rep McCrery is described as an even-tempered conservative able to work with both sides of the aisle. Is considered detail oriented. Focuses on tax policy and health care issues while keeping an eye on the interests of Fort Polk and Barksdale AFB in his district. Secured a seat on Armed Services in the 101st Congress and was active in floor debate on ICBM strategy, calling for funding of the MX and SICBM. Praised the role of military assets -- (aerostats and AWACS) including the Guard -- in drug efforts on the southern US border. In the 102d Congress, assigned to the Ways & Means Cmte and resigned from the Armed Services Cmte. In the 104th Congress, played a key role as the GOP pushed through legislation overhauling the nation's welfare system. In the 105th Congress, pressed the Ways and Means Cmte to deny benefits to immigrants. In the 106th Congress, continued efforts to modify tax laws.

Introduced two bills to amend the IRS Code to increase the deduction for meal and entertainment expenses, and to allow deduction for contributions to individual investment accounts. Although his vision of a national Army Strike Force headquarters at Fort Polk will not become a reality, he hopes to increase the troop level there to 10,000. Introduced a bill to provide tax relief to the US maritime industry, which he described as the "fourth arm of defense." In June 2000 published a press release announcing \$20M for new construction at Barksdale AFB. Asserted that "The current facilities at Barksdale AFB are inadequate to efficiently maintain the base's B-52 fleet." In the 107th Congress was handpicked by Ways & Means Chmn Bill Thomas to chair the Select Revenue Measures Subc and has been mentioned as a possible successor to the full committee chairmanship. Said the B-52's role in Afghanistan demonstrated that it was one of the AF's most dependable strategic bombers.

Additional Background: As the Vice Chmn of Incumbent Retention of the Natl Republican

Congressional Cmte, plays a key role in fund raising for House GOP colleagues

Member: Army Caucus; Reserve Components Caucus

AF Bases: Barksdale AFB (Also Reserve Forces)

COMMITTEES

WAYS AND MEANS -- Subcs on: Select Revenue Measures, Chairman; Health; Human Resources